



Friends of Clayoquot Sound

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Orcas in the Harbour!



Orca breaching in Clayoquot Sound.

Photo: Adrian Dorst

On a day like any other last August, in the busy Tofino office of the Friends of Clayoquot Sound, the phone rang, as phones often do. Sitting unsuspectingly at my desk, I cleared my throat, picked up the line, and with utmost officialism said "Hello, Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Diego speaking". On the other end of the line the impatient caller jumped on my words and blurted: "Orcas in the harbour, orcas in the harbour!" The

mysterious informant quickly hung up and the line went dead. I sat there for a moment, processing...then coming around, I hung up the phone, jumped up out of my chair, and ran down the hallway while echoing those powerful words: "ORCAS IN THE HARBOUR!" Out the door, onto my bike and down the street two blocks to the water's edge, with the whole FOCS staff in tow. We arrived at the wharf just in time to see five orcas swim by, three adults and two

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The Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: Ancient Forest Open for Business

The ancient forest of Clayoquot Sound – the World Biosphere Reserve that has made headlines around the world and has been visited by millions of people – is largely open for logging. In early 2006, a set of "watershed plans" is to be accepted by the provincial government, opening the door to logging in the most important areas of the Biosphere Reserve. Confused? You are not alone. Here, we attempt to answer the many questions that local people and visitors to the area have about the Biosphere:

1 What is Clayoquot Sound?

Clayoquot Sound is an area of land and water that stretches from the communities of Tofino and Esowista, about 90 km north, including the native village of Ahousaht, just past the famous hot springs at Hesquiat, and inland about 35 km. Nestled in the heart of this region are several large valleys covered with pristine ancient forest. These valleys comprise the largest old-growth forest remaining on Vancouver Island, where

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Where Have the Southern Residents Gone?

The complex nature of threats to orcas makes protection of the entire ecosystem a high priority. Pollution enters the ocean from a wide variety of sources while decades of over-fishing, habitat destruction, and now salmon farms contribute to low returns of wild salmon.

According to the watchdog organization Orca Network, based in Washington State:

“When periodic starvation is compounded with known levels of persistent toxic contamination these magnificent orcas lose their immunity to disease, fail to reproduce and too often simply disappear. We believe those two factors, periodic starvation and persistent contamination, provide the primary explanation for the population declines, and we fear that any turn in climatic conditions, or any catastrophic event such as an oil spill or a disease outbreak could turn the screws even tighter on the Southern Residents until they are gone forever.”

Please see www.orcanetwork.org for more information.

Orcas in the Harbour – from Cover.

juveniles. There we stood, shoulder-to-shoulder, trying to catch our breath and staring in awe at the small pod. Such is the magic of Clayoquot Sound, where on any given day, when you least suspect it, a remarkable wildlife experience is just a telephone call away. Orcas regularly visit Clayoquot Sound, though passing right in front of Tofino is a rare event. They come to hunt favoured prey in the pristine waterways of the region. You might think that orcas eat fish, seals, and whatever they can sink their teeth into, but orca food preference is apparently not so black-and-white. There are two separate orca “communities” that visit Clayoquot, transients and residents, each with its own distinct dietary preference.

The transients are the more common visitors, travelling in small groups and inspiring abrupt phone calls from Mexico to the Bering Sea. The transient orcas mainly hunt marine mammals such as seals, sea lions, and porpoises. The orcas we spotted in the Tofino harbour were very likely of the transient variety, a sparsely distributed community of about 170 individuals.

The resident community of orcas are less frequent visitors to Clayoquot, but do show up a few times every year. Local whale-watching guide and naturalist Stephanie Hughes keeps a sharp eye out for the remarkable animals from March to November.

“We saw kakawin a bunch of times here last year,” she says, using the native word for orca, as do all salty seafarers in Clayoquot. “We saw residents at least five times during the season. They tend to travel in larger groups compared to the transients. Last summer I saw a pod with about 50 orcas!”

These resident kakawin are an extended family divided into three pods, known to researchers as J-pod, K-pod, and L-pod, and collectively called the “Southern Residents”. With about 90 individuals divided among the three pods, the Southern Residents spend most of their time in the Gulf Islands, the Georgia Strait

(including the Vancouver harbour), and surrounding areas. The orcas depend heavily on key salmon runs as their primary food source, but with nearly half of these runs threatened with extinction, and a growing list of new threats ranging from pollution to boat traffic, the survival of the Southern Residents is uncertain.

Between 1995 and 2001, about 20% of the Southern Resident orcas died. This dramatic crash in the population was likely due to a combination of factors including depleted fish stocks, degraded habitat, and persistent pollution (see side-box). Since then, the Southern Resident population has started to improve somewhat, but both U.S. and Canadian government agencies still fear for their long-term survival.

In 2001, the Southern Residents were identified as “endangered” under the Canadian Species At Risk Act (SARA). More recently, in November 2005, the U.S. mirrored the Canadian decision and listed the orcas as endangered. However, the commitment of the U.S. and Canadian governments to protecting orcas remains to be proven.

North of the border, it seems that the provincial Liberals along with the federal Conservatives intend to compound the problem. Rather than alleviate stress on the magnificent orcas, our governments are currently planning to remove a ban on oil and gas development on the west coast, and have been supportive of fish farms, which damage wild salmon populations.

If orcas are to return to the Tofino harbour in the years to come, governments need to begin to see natural systems as they are: intricately balanced and often beyond our ability to predict. The people of British Columbia and all of Canada, as well as the United States, place a high value on healthy oceans, healthy fish, and healthy orcas. That’s why Friends of Clayoquot Sound advocate for an oil-free coast and that’s why we lobby for major changes in the salmon farming industry. It’s time for governments to do the same, and respond to the core values of the citizenry.

Diego Garcia

Photo: Adrian Dorst



A pod of Orcas

The Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: Ancient Forest Open for Business

Continued from Cover.

logging has run rampant for decades. Because most of the island is now scarred with clearcuts, landslides, and tree farms, the ancient forest of Clayoquot Sound and the rich biodiversity it supports has become extraordinarily important to the health of Vancouver Island's ecosystems, and is now a true icon for Canadian nature-lovers. At least forty-five vulnerable and endangered species currently live in Clayoquot's forest.

2 If Clayoquot Sound is a Biosphere Reserve, isn't it protected?

Currently, about 1/3 of its land area is protected, but much of what is protected is considered bog or "scrub" forest, which is not of commercial interest and would never have been logged in any event. Other protected regions are very steep, or barren rock and mountaintops. At present, about 75% of the productive forest remains open to logging.

Many critically important pristine watersheds remain open to logging. These include: Sydney Valley, Ursus Valley, the Clayoquot River Valley, Satchie Creek, Hesquiat Lake Creek, Flores Island, the Pretty Girl Wilderness and Sulphur Pass.

3 Why was Clayoquot Sound declared a Biosphere Reserve? Why weren't pristine Valleys protected?

In 1996, the importance of Clayoquot Sound was acknowledged by the world through the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a global organization that brings together international experts from more than 140 countries. These scientists declared that Clayoquot Sound is critical to the biodiversity of the entire region, and urged local governments to consider "...increased protection of pristine areas as core areas for protecting biodiversity and create new opportunities for sustainable development." The IUCN also urged the United Nations to recognize Clayoquot

Sound with the designation "World Biosphere Reserve." Despite the fact that it was the pristine valleys that inspired the designation in the first place, it was the lack of political agreement in Clayoquot that resulted in those very valleys being left unprotected. As for UNESCO, it has no regional authority in Clayoquot Sound.

4 Is logging restricted or controlled?

Logging interests point to a series of logging restrictions in Clayoquot Sound, created by a small group of experts called the Scientific Panel for Sustainable Forestry. In the eyes of government and industry, these restrictions offer sufficient ecological protection. However several key scientists who created the restrictions in the first place have recently spoken out against plans for logging the pristine valleys.

Recently, Dr. Ken Lertzman (Simon Fraser University), Dr. Nancy Turner (University of Victoria), and Dr. Jerry Franklin (the original "Mr. Forest") wrote to local planners in response to new logging plans. The experts called attention to the ecological value of keeping the pristine areas unlogged, and urged governments to pursue more sustainable activities.

Other scientists are being alerted to the threats as well. Dr. Michael Church, an expert on the study of rivers and streams from the University of British Columbia, recently said: "It makes no sense to designate a Biosphere Reserve and then log away the keystone features that inspired the designation in the first place."

5 Where and when are logging companies expected to start logging?

Logging roads are currently poised to enter Satchie Creek and Hesquiat Lake Creek in the north of Clayoquot Sound. Plans are in the works for parts of the Pretty Girl Wilderness, Sulphur Pass, as well as Flores Island. All of these areas could see logging in the next 2-5 years.



A wolf on the hunt in Clayoquot Sound.

Photo: Adrian Dorst

6 What can be done about threats from logging?

Friends of Clayoquot Sound have longstanding campaigns aimed at the conservation of pristine valleys, and bringing about an end to old-growth logging in general. We work in the marketplace, the main driving force of the destruction of the world's ancient forests, effecting change from within. Our education programs continue to inspire passion for ancestral ecosystems like the pristine valleys; and we work to mobilize like-minded citizens in order to foster a core of courageous and active people.

To keep informed and learn what you can do to help protect the magnificent forest of Clayoquot Sound, make regular visits to www.focs.ca.

How to Identify Farmed Salmon in the Supermarket

The simplest way to avoid eating farmed salmon (and to avoid participating in Mainstream's twisted version of "environment protection") is to know what to look for. Farmed salmon is often labeled as "fresh salmon", "Atlantic salmon", or even "organic salmon".

Don't be fooled. Recently, the British Columbia Organics Standards Association refused to recognize the fish farming industry as certifiable. In other words, the Organics Association won't even consider BC farmed salmon until major changes to the industry lessen risks to the environment and wild salmon. Yet some companies still market their farmed fish as "organic".

What's Going on in Them There Salmon Farms?

Have you ever wondered what goes into the production of farmed salmon?

Well, as aquaculture campaigner with Friends of Clayoquot Sound, I always do. Reading the website of Mainstream Canada (a.k.a. Cermaq), which has 16 salmon farm licenses in Clayoquot Sound, I came across the following passage:

"...As an industry leader, Mainstream Canada is proud to assure our customers our products are processed under the most stringent

international safety and health standards, a fact validated by international recognition. Mainstream Canada has a long tradition in environment protection." <http://www.mainstreamgroup.com/contenido/canada/index2.html>

This sounds reassuring, doesn't it? I know salmon require a healthy environment, however, I would say our opinions of high "health standards" and "environment protection" differ from Mainstream. FOCS recently received documents from the Ministry of the Environment through the Freedom of Information Act (Mainstream 2003-2004 FAWCR Annual Reporting Data). These documents list "materials" used by Mainstream salmon farms, either in feed, or substances that were released into the environment. I decided to investigate the Mainstream documents to gain a clearer picture of their "environment protection" and other claims.

FOCS asked the Ministry of Environment officials how much bleach, VIRKON etc. was dumped into the ocean. The ministry officials stated they did not know, and that companies are not required to list those details.

Dom Repta

| Yr 2004 | Company | Common Site Name | LWBC No. | MoE RE No. | Materials |
|---------|------------|---------------------|----------|------------|---|
| | Mainstream | Dixon Bay | 1403293 | 13131 | "Zinc, Astaxanthin, Castaxanthin, Oxytetracycline, VIRKON, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |
| | Mainstream | Binns Island | 1406648 | 13117 | "Zinc, Astaxanthin, Castaxanthin, Tribriksen, Fluorfenicol, VIRKON, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), Tricaine methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |
| | Mainstream | Bawden Point | 1403647 | 13932 | "Zinc, Tribriksen 40, VIRKON, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), Tricaine methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |
| | Mainstream | Bedwell | 1403980 | 9132 | "Zinc, Astaxanthin, Castaxanthin, Tribriksen 40, Romet 30, Oxytetracycline, VIRKON, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), Tricaine methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |
| | Mainstream | McIntyre Lake | 1407342 | 13746 | "Zinc, Astaxanthin, Castaxanthin, Tribriksen 40, VIRKON, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), Tricaine methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |
| | Mainstream | Saranac | | 1401590 | 9131 "Zinc, Astaxanthin, Castaxanthin, Tribriksen 40, Romet 30, Emamectin Benzoate, Oxytetracycline, VIRKON, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), Tricaine methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |
| | Mainstream | Mussel Rock | 1401589 | 9130 | "Zinc, Astaxanthin, Castaxanthin, Emamectin Benzoate, VIRKON, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), Tricaine methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |
| | Mainstream | Westside | 1408492 | 14956 | "Zinc, Astaxanthin, Castaxanthin, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), Tricaine methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |
| | Mainstream | Millar Channel East | 1408719 | 15707 | "Zinc, Astaxanthin, Castaxanthin, Emamectin Benzoate, VIRKON, Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (BLEACH), Tricaine methanesulfonate (TMS or MS222)" |



Fish farms release chemicals into the ocean environment of Clayoquot Sound.

| | Mortalities | Algae Blooms/Fish Kills |
|--|-------------|--|
| n, ium (H), Tricaine (MS222)" | 19,313 | |
| n, ON, (BLEACH), S or MS222)" | 65,433 | |
| Sodium (H), S or MS222)" | 5,941 | |
| n, tracycline, e Solution lfonate | 20,879 | |
| n, n (H), S or MS222)" | 128,556 | July 12-19/2004. Plankton Bloom. Fish loss of 138 MT. Disposal method: composting by Earthbank and reduction by West Coast Reduction |
| astaxanthin, ectin KON, (BLEACH), S or MS222)" | 40,077 | |
| n, I, Sodium (H), S or MS222)" | 36,807 | |
| n, VIRKON, (BLEACH), S or MS222)" | 104,902 | July 12-19/2004. Plankton Bloom. Fish loss of 250 MT. Disposal method: composting by Earthbank and reduction by West Coast Reduction |
| n, I, Sodium (H), S or MS222)" | 50,044 | |

Oxytetracycline:

A broad-spectrum antibiotic added to fish feed.

Sodium Hypochlorite Solution: A bleach-like cleaning solution that leaches into the surrounding environment.

VIRKON:

A fast-acting bleach-like disinfectant used to clean various equipment on the fish farms. Leaches into surrounding waters.

Romet 30:

Antibiotic combination drug containing sulfadimethozine and ormetoprim, which is fed to the fish.

Tribrissen 40:

Feed Medication. Used for the treatment of bacterial pathogens in salmon.

Emamectin Benzoate/SLICE:

A chemical therapeutant (PESTICIDE) used to control sea lice outbreaks. Sea lice are tiny parasites that can be fatal to fish in high densities, and are known to spread from fish farms to wild salmon. In 2004 (latest data available), SLICE had yet to be tested for food safety by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency [90], had not been licensed by the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs (Health Canada), nor permitted for use through the Pesticide Control Act.

"Morts": In 2003, 16,858,826 farmed salmon survived to harvest age while 1,430,110 were collected dead.

"Morts": In 2004, 12,645,300 salmon were farmed and the mortalities numbered 471,592.

Take a Rockin' Tour of Clayoquot Sound

Have you ever seen the amazing forest and ocean of Clayoquot Sound from the sky?

If not, here's your chance. Go to www.focs.ca and follow the links to our new video tour. Fly over the steep fjord-like Sydney Valley and witness the rugged shores and lush forest of Flores Island, all in one minute and thirty seconds!

Special thanks to Lighthawk (www.lighthawk.org), the amazing organization that donated aerial flights to our video crew, and to rock legends Canned Heat (www.cannedheatmusic.com) for donating their classic song, "Going Up the Country". This is just the first in a series of fun, educational, and hard-hitting short videos, so stay tuned to www.focs.ca for more!

Heads up on Summer Volunteer Opportunities.

We will need a strong team of volunteers to run our information booth in the lovely setting of the Tofino Botanical Gardens this summer. Shifts are 2 hours each and your role will be to educate and inform visitors about the ancient temperate rainforest and the continued threat of logging. Email info@focs.ca or call 1-250-725-4218 for further information. We value your help!



The Arctic Comes to Clayoquot

Coming to work for the Friends in Clayoquot Sound would, I knew, bring me many opportunities to see some amazing wildlife up close and personal. I was

We kept the owl quiet and warm, and were able to give it water, as dehydration can be a major problem.

The next day the owl went to the safe care of Rory Paterson at the Tofino Wildlife Rehab centre. Once its condition had stabilised it went to the North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre at Errington on the East Coast of the Island. After more feeding to build up its strength, the owl was released into the Delta region of southwest BC where it could find wide open spaces for hunting.

Snowy owls winter occasionally in many parts of southern Canada, but are rare visitors to the Pacific Coast. Some will find their way to open areas where they can hunt – one of the Tofino owls made a good living at the airport. Others, like the one we rescued, do not fare well in the dense rainforest, probably due to a lack of success hunting prey.

After its winter vacation, I hope our Clayoquot snowy owl is now safely on its way back north to breeding grounds in the Arctic.

Helen Clay

Friends of Clayoquot Sound welcome Helen Clay, our new Fundraiser & Office Coordinator. After a summer of dedicated volunteering for the Friends in 2005, Helen was hooked and joined the permanent staff in the fall. Her background in environmental science informs her public education and fundraising work. With a strong passion for nature, Helen brings positive energy into the office everyday.

looking forward to meeting bears (though not too close), having eagles soaring overhead while I checked the mail, getting acquainted with the whales as they migrate past the Sound – and perhaps meeting a few friendly banana slugs too!

Shorebirds need Clayoquot Sound as a vital stop-over on their migration routes, and I'm really looking forward to seeing them return in late April. My biggest bird surprise so far, though, was in December last year, when three snowy owls arrived in Tofino. Suddenly I was having a "Harry Potter" moment!

The first report came on a Sunday morning, of a snowy owl in a tree by Chesterman Beach Road. I headed over to see this amazing creature. It was sitting quietly in the woods, being mobbed by angry crows.

Later that evening, the owl had landed on a balcony, and was not looking good. Two local bird experts concluded that it should be rescued, and brought out of the rain to a warm dry place that turned out to be my apartment!

Further information on wildlife rehabilitation and snowy owls can be found at:

Wildlife Rehabilitators Network
www.wrn.bc.ca

North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre
www.northislandwildlifercoverycenter.org

Hinterland Who's Who
www.hww.ca

Summer Job Vacancy

Planning what to do this summer? How about helping to save Clayoquot Sound! We are seeking a lively, outgoing person to run our front office. Your role will involve public education and welcoming visitors to our eco-centre in Tofino. You will also be responsible for selling and stocking merchandise, coordinating volunteers, and helping out around the office. Send a resume and cover letter to info@focs.ca or call 1-250-725-4218 for further information.

International Forest Campaign Exposes Interfor's Betrayal

In November 2005, Dan Lewis traveled to Japan representing Friends of Clayoquot Sound (FOCS) to meet with major clients of Interfor. A multinational logging corporation that operates in Clayoquot Sound, Interfor produces almost 3 million cubic metres of wood every year, mostly from old growth forests (one cubic metre of wood is equal to about one telephone pole).

Dan, along with FOCS Tokyo-based markets campaigner Amana Kimura, met with several very large companies including Mitsubishi Corporation, Itochu Corporation and Oji Paper. As part of our ongoing efforts to educate major wood buyers abroad about the impacts of the logging industry, Dan and Amana presented the ins and outs of Interfor's recent proposal to reduce logging standards and increase the volume of forest logged in the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve. Interfor's proposal seeks to downgrade key logging standards that were initially developed by scientists (see our Winter 2005/06 newsletter for more information at www.focs.ca/news).

Japanese corporations were particularly interested to learn that Interfor has based their proposal on "10 years of experience logging in Clayoquot Sound" without providing any evidence that their logging over this time period has not harmed vulnerable and endangered wildlife. Interfor admits that they "have never seriously attempted to document the myriad impacts on the social, economic, and environmental fabric of Clayoquot Sound", but Interfor is pushing forward regardless, in stark violation of Clayoquot's logging standards. Unfortunately, logging standards here have not been legislated, and remain only a policy



Old-growth forest on Meares Island.

Photo: Adrian Dorst

framework rather than law. Whether or not this proposal is approved now depends largely on the Ministry of Forests - a test of the provincial government's commitment to maintaining peace in the woods and peace in the marketplace.

In a world where most companies are striving to improve their environmental practices, Interfor is seeking to downgrade key environmental protections, threatening to drag us all backwards to the bad ol' days of logging. The problem for Interfor is that public opinion would see Clayoquot Sound afforded greater protection and reduced logging, not the opposite. Ultimately, it is the public that decides which companies succeed and which will fail, and most consumers prefer companies that move towards improvement. Thanks to Dan's great work, companies in Japan now realize that Interfor is moving in the wrong direction.

Be sure to get a copy of our next newsletter for an update on Interfor's attempts to increase logging and reduce standards in Clayoquot Sound.

Diego Garcia

Foray Into Germany

Shortly after arriving back in Tofino from his trip to Japan, Dan Lewis was quickly sent packing again, this time invited to Germany. On a whirlwind tour from Frankfurt to Hamburg and then onwards to the north coast, Dan and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations canoe carver Joe Martin met with people from all walks of Deutschland life, including government officials, environmentalists, and students.

Germany is a key importer of Canadian forest products, with financial commitments and contracts valued at more than \$2 billion. Check out FOCS' next newsletter for more about our International Forest Campaign.



Support the Wild!

Friends of Clayoquot Sound is a grassroots organization advocating protection for the ancient temperate rainforests and marine ecosystems of Clayoquot Sound. We are part of an international movement calling for a shift of consciousness in the way humans relate to the Earth. We need your support to continue to educate, and to inspire people to action. Please send in your donation today to help protect one of the most spectacular places on earth. Visit our website to find more ways to help.

Send your donation to:

Friends of Clayoquot Sound

Box 489, Tofino, B.C., Canada V0R 2Z0

Ph: 250-725-4218 Fax: 250-725-2527 Email: info@focs.ca

Office: 331 Neill St., Tofino Check out our website: www.focs.ca



Spring into Action

Your donations make a real difference. With your help we can keep up our markets pressure in Japan, which helped to stop Interfor from logging in 2005. With your help we can keep watch on the forest and the oceans, ensure that roads do not enter pristine valleys such as Satchie Creek, and scuba dive beneath salmon farms to monitor the seabed ecosystems. With your help we can improve environmental practices and conservation.

Buying a membership is easy. All you need to do is one of the following:

- Go online at www.focs.ca
- Send us an email info@focs.ca
- Phone us at 1-250-725-4218
- Mail in the form on the left

With your help,
we can Keep
Clayoquot Wild!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Total Donation: \$25 \$40 \$100 Other _____

Become a member of our Protector's Circle with your gift of \$500 or more.

All members receive the informative Friends of Clayoquot newsletter hot off the press!

Visa or Mastercard

NUMBER _____ / _____ EXPIRY

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please charge my donation to my credit card noted above.

Join our Wilderness Team!

Your monthly donation will allow us to plan ahead more effectively and reduce administration costs.

To make monthly donations please fill in this section.

I hereby authorize Friends of Clayoquot Sound to draw on my credit card as noted above, the amount of \$ _____ every month beginning _____.

I (we) hereby authorize Friends of Clayoquot Sound to draw on my (our) chequing account a debit in electronic form in the amount of \$ _____ every month beginning _____.

SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER _____ DATE _____

Please include a sample cheque marked VOID for banking information purposes.